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February 7, 2013

Co-Chair Paul R. Doyle  
Co-Chair David A. Baram  
Senator Kevin D. Witkos  
Representative Dan Carter

General Law Committee:

My name is Abner Burgos-Rodriguez, I work for a family owned gasoline distributor located in Bridgeport. I am here today in **opposition to H.B. 5313, AN ACT REQUIRING GASOLINE STATIONS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH GENERATORS, H.B. 5344, AN ACT REQUIRING GENERATORS AT GASOLINE STATIONS and S.B. 321, AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR GAS STATIONS AND GROCERY STORES TO PURCHASE EMERGENCY GENERATORS.**

As a company that owns and operates gasoline stations, we do everything within reason to keep our facilities open so that we can serve our customers. Lets face it – if we are closed no one can buy gas and we can't make any money. That being said, there is every reason to do all we can to stay open.

Now you might ask yourself why would we be opposed to all of these bills requiring us to have generators that would allow us to stay open when the power goes out - when I already told you that we want to stay open.

Well as much as it sounds great to think that if the 1,400 gasoline stations in Connecticut had generators - everyone would have gas when they need it. It is just not so!

Over the last couple of years, when the power went out and gasoline stations closed, it was not only because there was not electricity at the gas stations that people couldn't get fuel - it was much more complicated.

When a storm approaches like the ones we have seen over the last few years, barges containing product that would typically come to Connecticut are sent to other destinations. This results in supply shortages and even run outs. With no fuel at the terminals it is unlikely that we will have gas at our stations - rendering generators useless.

In addition to fuel supply and distribution problems, even if we had fuel, most people use credit and debit cards to pay for gas. Even if our stations have power from a generator, phone lines would be down making it impossible to process those transactions in most cases. Again, we have power, but no way to accept payment from most customers.

This issue is not as simple as mandating that a private family owned Connecticut business invest between \$30,000 and \$60,000 per location to install generators. Having gas stations open with no gas to sell does not solve the problem that you seek to address.

Requiring generators at gas stations will only give the public a false sense of security without being able to deliver on the expectation that fuel will be available when they want it.

I urge the committee to **oppose to H.B. 5313**, AN ACT REQUIRING GASOLINE STATIONS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH GENERATORS, **H.B. 5344**, AN ACT REQUIRING GENERATORS AT GASOLINE STATIONS and **S.B. 321**, AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR GAS STATIONS AND GROCERY STORES TO PURCHASE EMERGENCY GENERATORS.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Respectfully,  
***Abner Burgos-Rodriguez***  
Marketing Manager  
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